

REMARKS

This paper is in response to the official action dated April 7, 2006, wherein claims 1-5 were pending, claims 1-5 were provisionally rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 as claiming the same invention as that of claims 1-5 of copending application Serial No. 10/478,115, and claims 1-5 were rejected as anticipated by GB 636324 (Gustav).

This paper is timely filed, as it is accompanied by a petition for automatic extension of time to file in the second month, and the requisite fee.

By the foregoing, claim 1 has been amended to recite a process or production plant comprising a plurality of units, and further comprising pipework for transferring fluid from one unit of the plant to another, wherein the pipework comprises at least one substantially rigid pipe having at least one section of the center line curving in three dimensions.

Support for the amendment to claim 1 is found throughout the specification, such as at page 1, lines 18-29, for example.

Reconsideration of the application as amended is solicited.

The issues raised in the official action will be addressed in the order appearing therein.

Double Patenting

Application Serial No. 10/478,115 has become abandoned for failure to file a response to the official action of April 7, 2006, within the shortened statutory period set for doing so.

Therefore, reconsideration and withdrawal of the double patenting rejection are solicited.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102

Gustav is concerned with the fluid treatment apparatus, for removing impurities (such as water) from oil. It includes what appears to be a helical pipe (see element 15 in Fig. 1), through which contaminated oil flows in order to be heated before treatment.

However, the apparatus depicted in Gustav cannot be fairly described as a “processing or production plant comprising a plurality of units” as recited in claim 1; rather it appears to be a processing unit, which at most could form part of a plant.

There is no disclosure or suggestion in Gustav of a processing or production plant having pipework for transferring fluids from one part to another including a section with a center line curving in three dimensions, as recited in claim 1.

More particularly, it appears that the only reason the pipe depicted in Gustav to be helical is to increase the link available for heat transfer. There is no suggestion whatever of the three-dimensional curve affecting the flow characteristics of the fluid, as in the current application.

For all the foregoing reasons, it is submitted that Gustav does not anticipate the present claims, and it is further submitted that the claims are in condition for allowance. Such action is solicited.

Should the examiner wish to discuss the foregoing or any matter of form in an effort to advance this application toward allowance, he is urged to telephone the undersigned at the indicated number.

Respectfully submitted,

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